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WNED-AM 970 NEWS

Poloncarz Forecasts County Surplus

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Mike Desmond (2011-07-14)

BUFFALO (WNED) - Erie County Comptroller Mark Poloncarz says it will be months before anyone knows for sure why sales tax collections are right where the budget calls for them to be.



That's \$162 million for the first five months of the year.

"We think it's a combination of higher gas prices along with the beneficial result we're receiving from all the Canadian crossing the border," Poloncarz said.

The overall budget assumes the county will take in \$357 million over the entire year.

Poloncarz says the sales tax collections make a surplus for the year look likely, while there is the property tax collections with the comptroller saying they are \$8 million dollars higher than they were supposed to be.

"The county executive should have reduced the tax levy by the cut amount," said Poloncarz, offering a political shot for his opponent for this fall's election.

"He (Collins) did not, so he started out with an \$8 million cushion" in his budget projections.

That property tax collection argument is still being worked out.

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